



AF/3617

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q68026

Hajime ITO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/041,631

Group Art Unit: 3617

Confirmation No.: 6578

Examiner: Russell D. Stormer

Filed: January 10, 2002

For: LIGHT ALLOY WHEEL FOR VEHICLE AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PRODUCING SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**  
APR 28 2004  
**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

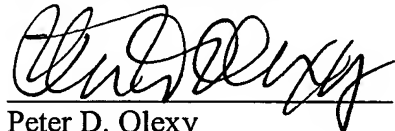
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/041,631

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter D. Olexy  
Registration No. 24,513

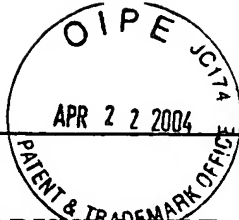
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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 22, 2004



Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/041,631
Confirmation Number	6578
Filing Date	January 10, 2002
First Named Inventor	Hajime ITO
Art Unit	3617
Examiner Name	Russell D. Stormer
Attorney Docket Number	Q68026

Sheet 1 of 1

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 4,799,534		01-24-1989	UBE Industries, Ltd.
		US			
		US			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		EP	0 273 586	A2	07-06-1988	Ube Industries, Ltd.	
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**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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# Europäisches Patentamt

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Erhalten  
18. DEZ. 2003  
Strehl et al.

Datum/Date

18.12.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

EPA-39361

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

02000721.7-2302-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire  
HITACHI METALS, LTD.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☐ abstract

☒ title

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A ✓	EP 0 273 586 A (UBE INDUSTRIES) 6 July 1988 (1988-07-06) * the whole document *	1-21	B21D53/26 B22D15/00 B60B3/14
A ✓	EP 0 949 022 A (WVW WERKZEUG FORMEN UND VORRIC) 13 October 1999 (1999-10-13) * the whole document *	1-21	
A ✓	US 4 799 534 A (DANNOURA SADAYUKI ET AL) 24 January 1989 (1989-01-24) * the whole document *	1-21	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 December 2003	Examiner Peeters, L
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 00 0721

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09-12-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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## ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

02000721.7

A light alloy wheel for a vehicle (30) comprising a disc portion comprising a hub portion and a design portion and a rim portion, the design portion having as-die-cast spoke portions having a taper angle of less than  $5.0^\circ$ . This wheel can be produced by using a casting apparatus comprising a die assembly comprising at least a stationary lower die and a movable upper die, a movable platen to which the upper die is fixed, a first cylinder and at least three synchronous second cylinders mounted onto a frame of the apparatus for moving the movable platen; driving the first cylinder to slowly reduce the clamping force of the lower die and the upper die; synchronously driving the second cylinders to elevate the movable platen in parallel from a position at which the lower die and the upper die are clamped to a position at which the wheel would not impinge on the lower die even if the movable platen were slanted; and then further elevating the movable platen by the first cylinder.